THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Central assistance allocated for development of wastelands and Social Forestry in 1985-86 and 1986-87 is Rs. 172.80 and Rs. 227.67 crores respectively and the share of Andhra Pradesh in the above two years is Rs. 26.32 and Rs. 30.74 crores respectively. The details are given in attached statement. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII, Annexure No. 39].

Delay in implementation of public sector projects

1326. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many public sector projects have been delayed in their implementation even after the plan approval for the past three years;

(b) what is the cost escalation because of the delay in the implementation of the projects; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to implement the public sector projects expeditiously, so as to avoid further expenditure in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) During the past three years, of the projects being monitored by this Ministry 92 central sector projects, each costing Rs. 20 crores and above have been delayed in their implementation with reference to the commissioning dates anticipated at the time of Annual Plan 1983-84.

(b) Cost escalation arises due to various reasons like delay in the acquisition of land, forests clearance change in scope, law & order disturbances, inadequate allocation of funds, price escalation, under-estimation of costs in order to get the projects sanctioned, in-puts supply problems, etc. It is not feasible to segregate the cost escalation as a consequence of delays in projects implementation.

(c) The following steps are being taken to contain the time and cost over-runs;

(i) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plans.

(ii) Effective monitoring through Monthly Flash Report and Quarterly Status Report monitoring system.

(iii) Constant pressure on project authorities for expeditious completion.

(iv) Inter-Ministerial coordination and inter-action.

(v) Close follow-up by concerned Ministries and project authorities with State Governments, equipment suppliers, Consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

Reports regarding shooting of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

1327. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to recent report that many Indian fishermen were shot at by Sri Lankan Navy boats in the Indian territorial waters;

(b) whether the attention of the Government of Sri Lanka has been drawn to such incidents; and

(c) what other steps are being taken for the security of Indian fishermen going into the sea near Rameshwaram for fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some reports of attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have come to Government's notice. According to the Sri Lanka Government the concerned Indian

fishermen had entered Sri Lankan waters.

(b) Government have invariably taken up such incidents with the Government of Sri Lanka with a view to preventing such occurrences.

(c) The Coast Guard and Indian Naval authorities have been given clear directions to ensure the safety of our fishermen and to prevent their going across the maritime boundary into Sri Lankan waters. Our Coast Guard ships are under directions to maintain utmost vigilance and to intensify night patrols. A Coast Guard station at Mandapam provides logistic support to Coast Guard ships operating in the area and maintains a close liaison with the Tamil Nadu State Government authorities in Rameshwaram.

Review of the progress of the Rural Development Programmes

1328. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rao Committee set up by the Planning Commission to review the progress of the rural development programmes has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) whether Government propose to reshape the different rural development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the summary of the Committee's recommendations is attached. (*See* below)

(c) The report has been circulated for ascertaining the reaction of the State Governments.

Statement

1. The Committee feels that the time has come to take a total view of Rural Development. It has to encompass all economic and social development activities handled by different agencies at the field level. It is not advisable any longer to limit anti-poverty programme to a few specific schemes.

2. Past experience clearly indicates that government machinery (Bureaucracy) alone cannot be assigned the responsibility for achieving economic development and social justice.

3. While the objectives of removal of poverty, as laid down in the Seventh Plan, must be adhered to, local initiative must be encouraged and the detailed strategy worked out by local people. It is, therefore, essential to involve the people and their representatives effectively in drawing up programmes of rural development and their implementation.

4. Panchayati Raj institutions have to be activised and given all the support needed so that they can become effective organisations for handling people's problems. Elections to these bodies should be held regularly.

5. It is also necessary to encourage voluntary agencies, with informed idealism, operating in rural areas, in every possible way.

6. The district should be the basic unit for policy planning and programme implementation. The Zila Parishad should, therefore, become the principal body for management of all the development programmes which can be handled at the level.

7. The President of the Zila Parishad can be directly elected for a term co-terminus with the Zila Parishad, or for one year each on the Mayoral pattern. The work of the Zila Parishad should be done by a number of Sub-Committees, elected on the basis of the proportional re-